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History of the Postage Stamps and Entires of Belgium.

By JULES BOUVÈZ.

(Continued.)

It was the Ministerial order of August 28th, 1866, which decreed the issue of the first Belgian postage stamp of 5 centimes, which was at first intended exclusively for prepayment of printed matter. This order reads as follows:

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

In view of Art. 6 of the Royal Decree of September 25th, 1865, in relation to the creation of a new type of postage stamp,

Decrees:

Art. 1. The issue of postage stamps of 5 centimes shall begin on September 1st, next.

Art. 2. The postage stamps of 1, 2 and 5 centimes, issued or to be issued by virtue of the above-mentioned Royal decree, may be employed only for the prepayment of newspapers, printed matter, business papers and samples of merchandise, entitled to the usual reductions of postage. All officials whom this order may concern are charged with the execution of the present decree.

The Minister of Public Works,
(Signed) JULES VAN DER STICHELEN.

The creation of this stamp was, above all, justified by the convention, concluded on December 7th, 1865, between Belgium and France, a convention which, by its additional provisions, was intended to modify the convention which had existed between these two countries since December 3d, 1857. By virtue of this treaty, which became executory on January 1st, 1866, books, collated or bound, photographs, visiting cards, sheets of music,

catalogues, prospectuses, various engraved advertisements, lithographs or autographs, from Belgium to France and Algeria, were to be taxed at only 5 centimes for each package bearing a single address and whose weight did not exceed 40 grammes.

The increase in the circulation of shipments of this character between the two countries mentioned made it imperative that the issue of this new postal value should not be delayed, and the following instructions regulating the sale appeared the day after the appearance of the decree:

August 29th, 1866.

The Ministerial order of August 28th determined upon September 1st, 1866, as to the date of issue of the postage stamp of 5 centimes, created by virtue of the Royal decree of September 25th, 1865.

The first issue of these stamps shall be made from the central office to all the post offices, before September 1st, but the issue is not to commence until that date.

In consequence of the restrictions placed, by Art. 2 of the above-mentioned Ministerial order, on the use of postage stamps of a value of less than 10 centimes, no account shall be taken of stamps of 5 centimes attached to letters or other objects intended to be forwarded by letter post. As a compensation, and in conflict with the existing instructions, postage stamps of this value thus employed shall not be cancelled.

The superintendent and distributing agents shall post public notices indicating the special use to which these stamps are to be devoted.

The Director General,

(Signed) FASSIAUX.

These instructions, which we have reproduced, are of some importance from a philatelic point of view. They explain to us: First, the existence of uncancelled stamps of 5 centimes on letters which have passed through the post; second, the almost universal cancellation of this postage stamp by means of the round date stamp, which was specially employed for the cancellation of the stamps of less than 10 centimes.

It is only after 1868 that we find on this stamp the cancellation with dots and numeral in center, the use of which was authorized for the cancellation of postage stamps used for printed matter by the law of April 30th, 1868, which introduced various modifications in the postal regulations. This style of cancellation may be considered a great rarity on stamps of 5 centimes of the first issue, as the use of it was not authorized for the prepayment of letters until September 1st, 1871, after the creation of the postal card, at which period the postage stamp in question was no longer in use, having been replaced by the second issue, which appeared on December 12th, 1869.

The stamp of 5 centimes of the first issue differs but little from the 1 centime, previously described. It has, like its predecessor, the banderole, the crown, and the arms engraved on the lozenge-lined ground. The design is also that of Mr. Delpierre and the engraving by Mr. Dargent. The ink and paper employed for the impression were furnished by Messrs. De La Rue of London.

The first issue of this value, which was placed on sale on September 26th, 1866, was printed in light brown on thin paper. It was perforated 15 by means of the new machine, and many slight varieties, such as irregularity or absence of the perforation, have been observed. These varieties may be

said to constitute from seven to nine stamps out of each sheet of 300, that is, about three per cent out of the first 200 or 300 sheets of the issue, and they disappear almost entirely in the later printings.

Another peculiarity which has been remarked in this value is that, in a certain number of sheets of the first issue, the groundwork of the medallion is in much darker ink than the remainder.

The second printing, which became necessary in order to replenish the supplies of the post offices, was issued on January 1st, 1867. This printing was also made on the thin paper, but in a dark brown shade. More care appears to have been taken in the printing, as well as the perforating. The stamps of this printing, the last made on thin paper, are the rarest of the series.

The third printing was undertaken on May 15th, 1867, and this time it appeared on thick paper. Besides the medallion being in dark brown, specimens may be found in which the same tint will be seen in the words "POSTE" and "CENTIMES," as well as in the numerals "5" in the lower corners of the stamp.

After May 15th, 1867, five other printings were made. The first two produced the stamps in the pale brown shade. These are the least important of the series. The three other printings produced, successively, the shades brown, yellow brown and dark brown. The yellow brown is the shade most sought for to day.

The schedule which we present includes the quantities issued at each one of the printings above mentioned, as well as the present approximate value of each variety, both cancelled and uncancelled:

Dates of Issue.	No. of Sheets.	No. of Stamps.	Shade.	Quality of Paper.	Present Value Uncancled.	Cancled
Aug. 10, 1866	1,200	360,000	light brown	Thin	3frs.	2frs. 50
Dec. 15, 1866	800	240,000	dark "	"	3frs. 50	2frs. 75
May 15, 1867	1,200	360,000	" "	Thick	2frs. 25	1fr. 25
Oct. 1, 1867	1,600	480,000	pale "	"	2frs.	1fr.
March 1, 1868	1,400	420,000	" "	"	2frs. 25	1fr. 25
			(clearer impression)			
July 1, 1868	800	240,000	brown	Thick	3frs.	1fr. 50
Nov. 15, 1868	600	180,000	yellow brown	"	4frs.	2frs. 50
May 1, 1869	1,700	510,000	dark "	"	2frs. 50	1fr. 25

The stamp of 2 centimes, created by the same decree as the two stamps previously described, was not placed on sale until March 1st, 1867. It was also designed by Mr. Delpierre and engraved by Mr. Dargent, the plates being prepared at Antwerp. The ink and the paper used for this printing were also furnished by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Perforated 15 and printed in blue, at first on thin paper, this stamp is the only one on a lined background. The engraving is very fine and appears to better advantage than in the other two values. Of this stamp there was only one printing on thin paper, but several slight varieties in shade have been observed on different stamps from the same sheet. This is the result of an insufficient inking of certain parts of the plate, and has frequently led to the erroneous supposition that a second printing, in pale blue on thin paper, had been made. This hypothesis is entirely untenable, as the supply of thin paper was about exhausted when the issue of the 2 centimes blue began, and after June 1867 the three values uniformly appeared on thick paper. There exist on thick paper four different shades of the 2 centimes blue of the first issue. These

shades result from the four printings which took place between May 15th, 1867 and April 1st, 1869.

In the following table we give the information that we have been able to obtain:

Dates of Issue.	No. of Sheets.	No. of Stamps.	Shade.	Quality of Paper.	Present Value. Uncancld.	Canceld.
Feb. 1, 1867	1,500	450,000	blue	Thin	Frs. 3.50	Frs. 2.50
May 15, 1867	2,800	840,000	pale blue	Thick	3.00	2.50
July 1, 1868	1,600	480,000	dark "	"	3.50	2.50
Nov. 15, 1868	1,200	360,000	pale ultramarine	"	3.00	2.25
Apr. 1, 1869	800	240,000	bright "	"	3.50	3.00

Although the Royal decree, which was issued on November 13th, 1869, was followed the next day by a Ministerial order decreeing the issue of new postage stamps, the three stamps for printed matter, of the first issue, continued in use and on sale by the post offices until September 30th, 1870.

The Provisional Stamps of German China.

Translated from the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*.

Of the provisionals previously reported, we have since received the following incorrectly surcharged parts of sheets:

First. The surcharge "5 Pfg," is placed exactly on the line of perforation. This sheet was again passed through the press, and this time the surcharge was correctly placed over the inscription, "10 Pf.", on the stamp.

Second. The surcharge "5 Pfg." is placed exactly on the line of perforation, without any second surcharge.

Third. The surcharge "5 Pfg." is on the line of perforation, but, through faulty feeding of the sheet into the press, is inverted. A second, more careful printing produced the surcharge in its proper place over the original value.*

Second Surcharge of 5 Pf.

At an early date supplies of the first surcharge became exhausted and in July a new surcharge was made in Tsingtau, but this time the surcharge was spelled "5 Pf." without the final "g". It is said that only a small lot, ten or twenty sheets in all, were made at this printing. However, it appears that of this lot only a small part was sold at the post office, as very soon after the printing a new supply of the regular 5 pf stamps was received from Shanghai. How unwilling the post office was to issue and sell these provisionals, is proven by the fact that after the first fourteen days of the existence of the provisional not more than ten pieces were permitted to be sold to any one person, and even then it was required, wherever possible, that the

*Our contemporary supposes that the sheets submitted are merely trial sheets, which were placed among the printers' waste.—Ed. American Journal Philately.

stamps be pasted at once upon the postal cards and mailed at the time of delivery. All these regulations were made in order to prevent abuse.

This accounts for the fact that nothing was known, at the time, of this second printing, and but little information can now be obtained, as the change in the surcharge had not been noticed. It also appears that the supply of type was rather deficient, as, according to the information of Mr. K—— of Yokohama, ten different types may be found.

The arrangement of the sheet was as follows:

2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	?
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	?	?
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	8	9	3	3	6	6	3	5	5

Type No. 1 is evidently printed with the same letters as Type 1 of the first printing.

Type 2 is like Type 2 of the first printing.

Type 3. In this the " 5 Pf." is even smaller than in Type 3 of the first provisional, and besides that a large " 5 " is placed over the original "10."

Type 4 resembles Type 2, but a large " 5 " covers the original value " 10."

Type 5 has a large " 5 " over the small black " 5 " of Type 3.

Type 6 is like Type 5 and has in addition a large " 5 " over the old value " 10."

Type 7 shows the small " 5 " of Type 3 and the " Pf." of Type 1.

Type 8 is like Type 7, except that the period is placed at the top.

Type 9 is an error of Type 7, reading " fP." instead of " Pf ".

Type 10 has the large " 5 " and the large " Pf." under the small "Pf." of Type 3.

It is also to be remarked that Type 10 is never to be found on the sheets which bear Types 3—9; it is to be found in the fifth and tenth rows. This proves that there were, at least, two different settings of this surcharge, each one of which was arranged for an entire sheet, in contrast to the first provisional in which the types are repeated on each half sheet.

Similarly to the first variety, the new value is underscored by a blue line.

Third Surcharge of 5 pf.

Finally, in August 1900, the German post office in Foochow made a third provisional, also in small letters and without period. The length of the surcharge is 8½mm. and there is no blue line. As far as we can judge from pairs and blocks which we have seen, only one type of this surcharge exists, which was impressed by hand, the ink employed being the same as that used for cancellation. Nothing is as yet known in regard to the quantity issued.

In regard to this third provisional, the *Germania Berichte* furnishes us some additional information: "When the manufacture of the provisional was determined upon, it was expected that a new supply of 5 pf. stamps would soon be received and that therefore it would not be necessary to make the issue a large one. The surcharging was done by means of a hand stamp, each stamp being surcharged separately with the black pad ink used in the office, and therefore no varieties of type can have existed except such as may have resulted from defective impressions. The entire issue consisted of only 1,500 stamps, all of which were sold in one day."

The Status of the Unpaid Letter, Registration, Too Late and Official Stamps, etc.

Notes Read Before the Philatelic Society, London,

By R. Ehrenbach.

From the *London Philatelist.*

During a recent stay with my esteemed friend our Vice-President, we were discussing with a few other philatelists various matters bearing on our "hobby" in general, and among other things that cropped up the status of the Postage Due Stamps and other labels, as enumerated in the heading of these notes, formed the subject of a rather long debate.* I may say at once that we could not agree, and nobody was convinced by the "soundest arguments" put forth on either side, except on one point—namely, that this question would be a very interesting one to bring before the Society in the shape of a discussion at one of our meetings. Hence these notes.

I am perfectly satisfied that so much can be put forth on either side as to ensure as lively a debate as anybody can desire, and I am equally convinced that we shall leave each other to-night still divided into two parties (citing Hamlet), "To be or not to be" collected.

The following notes embody my views on the question raised, and I will first deal with the

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

A mere glance through any of the leading catalogues will show that, as set forth roughly in the appended list, between fifty and sixty countries or possessions thereof have issued such stamps, and this to the tune of about 800. I have purposely left out in this list, as also in the others, to which I shall refer later on, practically all varieties of types, shades and perforations, as I think a question like the present one is likely to bear only on the subject of

*Mr. Ehrenbach's notes, though not intended for publication, have been handed to us at our request, as we are convinced that in these days of multiplicity of issues the discussion of the survival of the fittest it is one that it is well to bring before the philatelic public. As foreseen by Mr. Ehrenbach, the debate that ensued was vigorous, but by no means unanimous. Our own opinion as regards the Unpaid Letter Stamps traverses that of Mr. Ehrenbach. A postage stamp is a label that denotes the prepayment of a postal rate, and the Unpaid Letter "Stamp" is an official notification that the letter in question was not prepaid, and is, therefore, subject to a fine of double the amount payable, and in coin, and not in stamps, by the addressee. The Too Late, Registered, and Special Delivery Stamps are, as Mr. Ehrenbach argues, not strictly postage stamps, but intended for the auxiliary or affiliated services denoted on their face They are, however, so closely allied to the stamp pure and simple as being prepaying labels, and their number is so few that they are not likely to find disfavor in the eyes of collectors. It may also be urged that if a penny letter has a twopenny stamp placed alongside for registration purposes the latter also ceases to be a postage stamp. The question of the official stamps is one that is open to considerable discussion, but it seems to be clear, from the fact of the use of different values, that each department is debited with the respective amount of stamps that it uses, and that therefore they do represent prepayment of postal rates by a government department.—Ed. London Philatelist.

general collections ; in fact, it can hardly have any influence on specialists' collections in any way. The chief argument which should be put forth to decide their status one way or the other is, I take it, "Do they defray postage, or do they not?" I say they do ; others say the contrary. My view is, that it is *de facto* quite immaterial whether postage, or freight or carriage of any kind, is paid in advance or on delivery ; it has to be paid somehow or other. No firm, whether it be the Post Office or a railway company or a steamship company or any other company, would undertake the work of a carrier without remuneration. If they were not paid they would decline the business. But the Post Office cannot, in accordance with the Convention of the Postal Union, decline to carry letters or cards, whether they are franked in advance or not.

One of the Acts of the Berne Convention distinctly deals with this matter, and says that the Postal Authorities of every country belonging to the Union shall carry letters or post cards to destination whether the postage fees have been prepaid or not. The same Act fixes the amount to be prepaid at a maximum of 2½d. (25 centimes gold)—an amendment allowing countries to make special arrangements with each other with a view to reducing their rates—the amount of prepaid postages to go to the forwarding Post Office of the respective country. They likewise, however, stipulate, *and this is the point on which I specially lay stress*, that should the postage not be prepaid, or only partly prepaid by the sender, the deficiency shall then be collected in double from the addressee, and the single postage, or deficiency, shall be accounted for and credited to the country whence the letter comes, and the balance kept by the collecting office. If such a letter be not accepted by the addressee, then the letter is returned to the sender, who is legally liable for the amount due to the Post Office. I know of cases where this rule has been strictly enforced. The point just referred to distinctly shows, to my mind, that the Postage Due Stamps are not intended as a mere receipt or check on officials, or even as a fine. If this were the case, then it would be optional for any office to say : "On this letter no stamp has been affixed ; we will therefore not carry it, or we will only carry it as a favor," which, under the terms of the Convention, they cannot do. The only risk they run is that in case of non-acceptance by the addressee they may fail to trace the sender, and this risk is on the balance *nil*, considering that they charge double postage if paid on delivery.

Registration Stamps.

Of these stamps there is not such a great quantity, and therefore their status is not of so important a moment. From the list herewith it will be seen that only about a dozen countries or so have issued such labels, and if we omit all minor varieties of type, etc., and also the vignettes of the Colombian Confederation and Dependencies, only about fifty stamps would have to be collected.

According to my opinion, these labels are not stamps in the true sense, and in no way to be classified on a par with the Postage Dues. They are not intended to defray postage in any shape or form. They are merely an additional charge, or rather a kind of insurance fee paid for a "relatively" safer delivery and conveyance, and against this fee a receipt is given as a proof that the package has been posted. Under the same heading as these Registration Labels should be mentioned the Return Receipt Stamps of Chili and Salvador, which are a fee the sender pays to be sure that his letter has

been delivered to the proper party (a precaution very necessary in some countries.)

Too Late Stamps.

are likewise not postage stamps in a strict sense, as they cannot frank a letter. They are only a fee to ensure the departure of the letter after close of post, and one might call them a fine on the laziness of the letter-writer. But with exception of the well-known Victorian stamp (which no collector of Victoria would miss), only Colombia and Antioquia have issued such stamps—the surcharged stamps of Trinidad not being, I take it, an official issue.

The Special Delivery Stamps of Canada and the United States of America and their new West Indian possessions also belong to the same category ; they are a special fee charged in addition to the regular postage in order to obtain a special privilege—in this case, quickness of delivery.

Lastly, but not least, I have to deal with the

Official Stamps.

To these have to be added the Government Parcel stamps of this country. From the subjoined list it will be seen that forty-three countries have issued about 900 stamps in addition to the South Australian Departmentals, of which there are quite a considerable number, and of the United States Department Stamps. These I have left out purposely (see below)

Of these labels—unpalatable as it is to me—I must hold the same opinion as of the Unpaid Letter Stamps. They are, according to my view, postage stamps, and should be collected, even in the face of the fact that a very large number are probably speculative. If the list is studied, it will be seen that of the 900 stamps enumerated, upwards of 300 belong alone to the Seebeck countries or such like, and about 130 are issued by India and its states. Over seventy each fall to the share of Luxemburg and Uruguay, and probably a large majority of this number, over one-half of all issued, are more or less unnecessary.

Nevertheless, as I have already said, they are to my mind postage stamps, and I cannot for one moment side with the argument that they are only intended as a check on the various departments who use them, on the ground that these departments do not pay for them to the Post Office, They may not be paid for in ready cash to the Post Office but the latter certainly charge for them in the current accounts with the various departments. If they were not charged for, how could the Post Office keep their accounts, and how could they make out a balance sheet at the end of the year? Take, for instance, our Post Office. They deliver to the printers a certain number of sheets of paper, and the printers, after printing the stamps, have to account for every sheet, whether spoilt or not. The stamps are handed over to a certain department of the Post Office, which distributes them, and debits each branch office with the face value. How could they be asked to give away hundreds of sheets (even if surcharged) to other Government Offices free of charge? This would leave the door open to all kinds of things, into which I need not enter into detail. Lastly, how could they issue a proper profit and loss account, let alone the question of statistics? Apart from all this, the mere fact that more than one value is surcharged in this country shows that—the Government Parcel Stamps prove this absolutely—they are destined to defray postage in accordance with the

ruling Post Office rates. If they were only a check, one value would be quite sufficient.

I have left the U. S. Departmentals out of the list, because I do not know whether in this case the stamps are ordered and printed for each department or not. In the first case, they might not be accounted for to the Post Office, and then my argument might in this instance not be correct.

Summing up now, my opinion on the status of the various labels referred to is that Unpaid Letter Stamps and Officials should occupy the same status as the ordinary postage stamp in every sense, while if anything could be discarded it should be the Registration Labels, the Too Late stamps, the Return Receipt Labels, and the Special Delivery Adhesives.

It is naturally a very difficult thing to lay down a hard and fast rule and to say what is collectible and what not, and we all only too well remember how impossible it has been even for the S. S. S. S. to say what was a speculative or unnecessary issue and what was not; and whatever the results of our discussion, collectors will go on collecting just as hitherto and take what suits them, and they will be quite right. Anyhow, if I were collecting Australians I should certainly not discard the New South Wales Registration Stamps and the Victoria Too Late and Registered. These are too grand and venerable in every respect to be discarded. And this clearly demonstrates, as I have shown in my own case, that our sympathies will not always allow us to follow the most logical convictions!

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

No.		No.		No.	
33	Austria.	20	Italy.	40	Salvador.
13	Bavaria.	5	Colombian Confederation.	8	San Marino.
7	Belgium.	9	Liberia.	17	Shanghai.
22	Brazil.	8	Montenegro.	15	Sweden.
15	Bulgaria.	10	New Zealand.	23	Switzerland.
18	Chili.	10	New South Wales.	6	Servia.
4	Cuba.	34	Nicaragua.	4	Soudan.
20	Curacao.	21	Holland.	9	Trinidad.
7	Ecuador.	21	Dutch Indies.	22	Tunis.
19	Egypt.	16	North Borneo.	30	Turkey.
7	Grenada.	5	Norway.	28	United States of America.
24	Greece.	6	Portugal.	21	Victoria.
200	(about) France and Possessions.	3	Porto Rico.	5	Philippines.
4	Hayti.	26	Roumania.		

Registration Stamps.

No.		No.		No.	
5	Afghanistan.	4	Liberia.	2	Salvador.
4	Antioquia.	3	New South Wales.	1	Venezuela.
3	Canada.	3	Panama.	1	Victoria.
20	Colombia, excluding the large labels (also of Tolima.)	2	Philippines.	1	French Congo.
		2	Queensland.	1	Montenegro.

Too Late Stamps.

No.	
1	Antioquia.
1	Colombia.
1	Victoria.
2	Trinidad (doubtful).

Special Delivery Labels.

No.	
1	Canada.
1	Cuba.
7	United States of America.
1	Guam.

Return Receipt Stamps.

No.	
2	Chili.
1	Salvador.

Official Stamps.

No.	
30	Argentine Republic.
10	British Guiana.
32	India.
16	Ceylon.
10	Chamba.
34	Costa Rica.
7	Denmark.
50	Ecuador.
8	Faridkot.
1	Fiji Islands.
30	Great Britain.
7	Gwalior.
10	Hyderabad.
22	Honduras.
8	Iceland.
9	Italy.
3	Jamaica.
14	Jhind.
10	Cashmere.
38	Liberia.
70	Luxemburg.
13	Mexico.
15	Nabha.
8	New Zealand.
28	New South Wales.
109	Nicaragua.
9	North German Confederation.
28	Paraguay.
20	Puttiala.
10	Perak.
24	Peru.
5	Poonch.
88	Salvador.
16	Sweden.
8	Sirmoor.
11	Spain.
36	Suaheliland (?)
24	South Australia (not including Departmentals, only the O. S.).
10	Tonga.
82	Uruguay.
7	Venezuela.
10	Wurtemberg.
92	United States of America (not included in the list).

We agree, in most particulars, with the conclusions arrived at by Mr Ehrenbach, but in our opinion, he is somewhat more liberal than a strict inquiry from a scientific standpoint would justify. These remarks refer particularly to the unqualified acceptance given to unpaid letter stamps, and, while we admit that they must be of considerable interest to a stamp collector, from sentimental reasons and on account of their resemblance in appearance to postage stamps, they could not from a scientific standpoint, be classed as such. The fact that the rule of the Universal Postal Union requires all governments to forward, to the other members of the Union, correspondence which is deposited without postage stamps, does not, to our mind, affect in any particular the status of the unpaid letter stamps, which are in some instances affixed by the delivery office of the addressee. The unpaid letter stamp is nothing more than a convenient memorandum, on the part of the receiving post office, to indicate the amount of tax which is to be paid, and, as a postage stamp in its very nature implies prepayment, the unpaid letter stamp,

indicating the exact opposite, should, from a strictly scientific standpoint, be excluded from the category of postage stamps.

We fully agree with Mr. Ehrenbach in his practically unreserved acceptance of registration, too late and special delivery stamps, as each one of these classes is used by the public in prepayment of some particular feature of the postal service. The registration of letters, as well as additional payment of a rate for late forwarding, is, to our mind, as much an integral part of the prepayment, according to the class of the service, as the employment of the ordinary postage stamp, and we are unable to appreciate any line of reasoning which would deprive these stamps of the standing to which they are justly entitled. Mr. Ehrenbach is also of the opinion that official stamps should be considered as practically of the same class as regular postage stamps, whereas the editor of the *London Philatelist* appears to take issue with him on this point. We, for our part, fully agree with Mr. Ehrenbach in according full recognition to stamps of this character, and it appears to us that the argument of the editor of the *L. P.* points to our view of the case and not to the conclusions which he draws. As an example of the use of official stamps, the official or department stamps of the United States will serve as well as or, perhaps, better than any others. From 1873, when these were first introduced, until 1884, the time of their abolition, each department, in submitting its estimates for the coming fiscal year, included, as a charge against the department, the value of the postage stamps which, in the estimate of the secretary, the service of his department would require during that period. The stamps were delivered by the Post Office Department and the receipts were calculated among the general receipts of that department, and it seems to us that it would be drawing almost too fine a line to differentiate between the postage paid for by the public and that paid for by one department to another. Nearly all official stamps in the world are used under similar conditions, and we fail to see any reason why they should be differentiated from ordinary postage stamps.—Ed. American Journal Philately.

United States Postal Cards.

From Report of the Post Office Department for 1900.

The first issue of these cards, authorized by act of Congress approved June 8, 1872 (p. 304, 17 Stat.), was made under the appropriation act of March 3, 1873, (p. 557 of the same volume), on May 1.

1873.—The dimensions of this card are 3 by 5⅛ inches. The face is engraved on steel, surrounded by a border, in scroll work, one-eighth of an inch in width. The 1 cent stamp, printed on the upper right-hand corner, is from a profile bust of the Goddess of Liberty, looking to the left, and surrounded by a lathe-work border, with the words "U. S. Postage" inserted above and "One Cent" below. On the upper left-hand corner are the words "United States Postal Card," with directions to "Write the address only on this side; the message on the other." Underneath, and occupying the lower half of the card, are ruled lines for the superscription, the top line being prefixed with the word "To." The back of the card, intended for the communication, is entirely plain. In color, the body of the card is light buff; the printing velvet brown.

1875.—This card is of the same dimensions as the first (3 by 5⅛ inches). On the upper right-hand corner of the card is a profile head of Liberty, looking to the left. The frame or border of this emblem consists of two upright Roman consular fasces, connected at the top and bottom by strips, the upper one of which has the words "U. S. Postage" and the lower one the words 'One cent." On the upper left-hand corner is the monogram "U. S.," crossed by a ribbon bearing the words "Postal card" in bold Roman letters. Under this device is the notice, in small Gothic letters, "Write the address on this side; the message on the other." Later it was changed to "Nothing but the address can be placed on this side." The border surrounding the face of the prior card and the superscription lines are dispensed with. The color of the paper is light cream, and the printing is in black.

1879, *International.*—These cards were issued under the law of March 3, 1879 (p. 357, 20 Stat.), on December 1 of that year. The size of the card and the paper are the same as those of the 1875 card.

An inconspicuous border surrounds the card, the corners being more heavily displayed. In the upper left corner are the words "Universal Postal Union," in English and French, forming two parallel curved lines, swelling upward in the middle. Beneath this, separated by an ornamental dash and in much larger type, are the words, in straight parallel lines, "United States of America," in both English and French. The French repetitions are parenthesized and in smaller form than the English, the latter being in solid color capitals. Beneath this, in much smaller gothic capitals, are the words, "Write only the address on this side."

In the right upper corner, within an elliptical belt border and upon the plain paper ground, is the profile head of "Liberty." The monogram "U. S." appears at the top of the border upon a decoration, through which the belt appears to pass; midway of each side, in a corner-clipped square tablet, appears the white figure 2. At the bottom the belt's end is drawn out and drops downward, leaving the buckle tongue exposed to the left. The words

"Postal" and "Card" fill the otherwise vacant spaces on the right and left upper quarters, respectively, while "Two" and "Cents" occupy the corresponding quarters on the lower half in white gothic capitals. Color, blue.

1885.—A new contract for the manufacture of postal cards having been let on the 1st of June, 1885, a new design was issued on the 24th of August next following. The color of the paper was not changed. The design, printed in dark brown, is as follows, as described at the time: "On the upper right-hand corner of the card in an oval frame is the head of Thomas Jefferson, from the painting by Chappel, the face of which is three quarters full, looking to the left, and surrounded with a wreath of oak and laurel tied with a ribbon bearing the words 'One cent' and the numeral '1.' On the left, at the top of the card, are the words 'United States Postal Card' the words 'United States' being in plain white letters on a curved and partly folded scroll, and the words 'Postal card' being in dark ornamental letters, inclosed in straight, unshaded lines, with a rosette at each end. Immediately under the scroll is a small white star, below which is a long tablet containing thirteen stars. Beneath the whole design are the words: 'Nothing but the address to be on this side.' Color brown."

1886.—On the 1st of December of this year a new design was introduced, printed in black. It bears the right profile of Jefferson as the central object in the upper half of the card. This medallion is circular, thirteen sixteenths of an inch in diameter. To the left and right are the words "Postal" and "Card" between double horizontal straight lines terminating in gothic points and foils. Above, upon a double-ended ribbon, are the words "United States;" below the portrait, and in the circle, between double lines inclosing it, are the words "One cent." The ornamentation is of an open double-line style, with conventional lines springing from a base, upon which the words "Postal card" are shown. Below all the rest, in a single line of gothic capitals the are words "Nothing but the address to be on this side." There is no numeral on the card. This card, designated the B card in the table below, was issued to postmasters until 1895.

Designation	Dimensions	Denomination	Portrait and color of ink	Color of paper	Date of first issue	Character of correspondence
	Inches					
A	2 1/16 by 4 5/8	1-cent, ...	General Grant; blue; three-quarters left.	Gray	Dec. 16, 1891	Domestic, which includes Canada and Mexico.
B	3 by 5 1/16 ..	.... do	Jefferson; right profile; black.	Light manila.	Dec. 1, 1886	Do.
C	3 3/4 by 6 1/8	.... do	General Grant; black, as above	Manila	Dec. 16, 1891	Do.
D	3 1/2 by 5 1/2	2-cent, double	.... do	Light manila.	Oct. 25, 1892	Domestic, return, including Canada and Mexico.
E	3 by 5 1/16 ..	2-cent, single.	Liberty; left profile in blue.	Gray white	Dec. 1, 1879	Foreign.
F	3 1/2 by 5 1/2	4-cent, double	.... do	Pearl gray.	Mar. 1, 1893	Do.

Under a new contract, beginning on the 1st of October, 1889, three different sizes and styles of postal card were provided for. One of these, called the B card, and described above as the card of 1886, was issued continuously from the beginning of the contract. For various reasons, the two others,

designated A and C cards, were not issued until 1891. The following is a detailed description of these two cards:

1891.—The A cards: The vignette of General Grant in citizen's dress appears with a line ground—a 3-4 by 15-16 inch ellipse partly inclosed with two branches of laurel united beneath. It is situated in the right upper corner. To the left of the portrait are the words "United States of America" in slightly shaded German text, below which in small gothic capitals, are the words "This side for the address only," the whole inclosed with a fine line, involved and broken here and there for the purpose of ornamentation. Above this, and partly set into it, is a small shield; on the left and above are the words "Postal card," and on the right the words "One Cent."

1891.—The C card: The portrait and its situation are the same as on the A card. To the left of this extends a single ornamented line panel within which, in large German letters, heavily shaded, are the words "United States of America." Above the panel are the words "Postal card One cent," and below, in a much smaller panel, are the words "This side for address only," in small gothic capitals, as those on the A card.

In 1892 two other postal cards were introduced—called double or reply cards—one intended for use in the domestic mails and the other for international mails. The following is a description of them:

1892.—The D cards—domestic reply: The card consists of two parts, one appropriate to an original message and the other to a reply thereto, the imprint upon the two superscription faces being on reverse sides of the paper, and the parts being easily separable by means of a scored line between them, cut about half through the thickness of the paper.

The following is a description of the card:

Message part.—In the upper right-hand corner, constituting the denominational stamp, is a portrait of Gen. Grant in citizen's dress, three-quarters face, looking to the left, in a horizontally lined elliptical frame, with a fine line around the inner and outer edges thereof, a white five-pointed star in a small black circle being on either side of the frame, which bears above the words "Message card" and below the words "One cent," in white slightly shaded capitals. To the left of the stamp, in prominent black letters with outline shading, the letters being arranged in a straight line, are the words "Postal card with paid reply," below which, in shaded German letters are the words "United States of America," and underneath this, in very small single-line capitals, the words "This side for address only." In these latter characters, in the lower left-hand corner of the card, is this direction: "Detach annexed card for answer." Around the whole card is an ornate linked border, with heavy corner pieces.

Reply part.—This is precisely the same as the message part, except that the upper part of the frame around the portrait bears the words "Reply card," while to the left of the stamp the words "Reply postal card," in heavy black letters, are substituted for the words on the message part. The direction, too, in the lower left-hand corner is omitted.

1892.—The international reply card.

Message part.—In the upper right-hand corner is the postage stamp, consisting of a horizontally lined elliptical frame, with a fine line on the inner and outer edges, the words "Message card" and "Two cents" in white capitals with black shading being, respectively, above and below, while between the two, on either side of the frame, is a white rosette in a small circle set into an oblong tablet with lopped corners. Within the frame, looking to the left, is a head of Liberty, with coronet, such as is stamped on the United

States twenty-dollar gold piece. To the left of the stamp, in black, unshaded capitals, arranged in a curve, are the words "Universal Postal Union," with equivalent words in French in smaller letters underneath. Below this in a straight line, in ornamental prominent black capitals, are the words "United States of America," with the French equivalent beneath in smaller letters, while below this, again, in small single-line capitals, are these words: "Write only the address on this side." In these latter characters, in the lower left-hand corner of the card, is the direction "Detach annexed card for answer." Around the whole is a border exactly like that in the domestic reply card, except that nearly the whole upper portion of it is taken up with a tablet surrounded with a single line, wherein, upon a black ground, are these words in white capitals: "Postal card with paid reply," after which is a very small star, and the words in small letters "Carte postale avec reponse payee."

Reply part.—This is precisely the same as the message part, except that the words "Reply card" are substituted for "Message card" in the frame of the stamp, while the following words are put in the tablet along the top border of the card: "Reply postal card" and "Carte postale reponse." The direction also in the lower left-hand corner is omitted.

Since 1892 there have been several modifications of dimensions, discarding earlier designs, so that the condensed list of cards issued from the beginning to this time is shown thus:

Postal cards that have been and those that are now being issued to postmasters.

Name.	Date.	Denomination.		Dimensions.	Head.	Color.
B	1873	1 cent	Single	3 by 5½	Liberty, capped	Brown.
B	1875	1 cent	Single	Same	Liberty, bare	Black.
E	1879	2 cent	Single	Same	Liberty, bare	Blue.
B	188[illegible]	1 cent	Single	Same	Jefferson	Brown.
B	1886	1 cent	Single	Same	Jefferson in profile.	Black.
A	1891	1 cent	Single	2 15/16 by 4 7/8	Grant	Blue.
C	1891	1 cent	Single	3 3/4 by 6 1/4	Grant	Black,
D	1892	1 cent	Double	3 1/4 by 5 1/2	Grant	Black.
F	1892	2 cent	Double	Same	**Liberty**	**Blue.**
G	1893	1 cent	Single	Same	Jefferson	Black.
E	1897	2 cent	Single	Same	Liberty	Blue.
H	1897	1 cent	Single	3 1/4 by 5 1/2	**Jefferson**	**Black.**
K	1898	1 cent	Single	2 15/16 by 4 15/16	**Adams**	**Black.**
D	1898	1 cent	Double	3 1/4 by 5 1/2	**Grant**	**Black.**
E	1898	2 cent	Single	Same	**Liberty**	**Black.**

Those whose heads and colors are given in **bold-faced letters** are now being issued. The E card of 1898 has no border.

No requisitions from postmasters are filled for a smaller number of cards than 500 H or K, 250 D or F (double), nor 100 E.

The H and K postal cards are furnished in sheets of 40 of the former and 50 of the latter when ordered in lots of 10,000 or its multiple. The H card sheets are 4 cards, horizontally wide, and of dimensions 22 by 32 1-2 inches. The K sheets are 5 cards wide and measure 24 11-16 by 29 3-8 inches.

The postal cards issued prior to 1893 are sufficiently described on pages 116, 117 and 118 of this report. Since that time the dimensions of all cards manufactured have been brought within the Postal Union dimensions, i. e.,

3 1-4 by 5 1-2 inches. A large quantity of the original F cards are still on hand, so that none of those has yet been made of the reduced dimensions. The C cards ceased to be made when the card contract went into effect, October 1, 1893.

1893.—The G card, 3 1-2 by 5 1-2 inches, was adopted October 1, 1893, as a substitute for the C card, which was much larger and of very heavy paper, weighing 9 pounds 1 ounce to the thousand. The new cards weigh but 6 pounds 10 1-2 ounces to the thousand. They were not actually issued to postmasters until January 2, 1894. Cards of this style were the first systematically issued to postmasters in sheets, and this issue in sheets began on the 13th of June, 1895, in cases of 10,000 each.

The vignette on this card is the Jefferson face, used with brown ink in 1885, and discarded, the inclosing wreath with scroll and numeral 1 having been supplanted by a more modest design of wreath only and the name "Jefferson" in very small letters at the bottom. The words "Postal card, one cent" appeared at the top with ornamentation between them, and the words "United States of America" in the next line, and in large shaded letters with capitalized initials, and following this the words "This side is for the address only," with an ornamented line inclosure. This card continued to be issued until December 1, 1897.

1896.—The E card was enlarged to 3 1-2 by 5 1-2 inches to agree with the G cards. They were printed from the old 1879 plate and in blue, thus leaving a broad margin of three-eighths of an inch outside the border. These cards were not actually issued until January 25, 1897.

1897.—The H card, 3 1-4 by 5 1-2 inches, was introduced with the new contract in effect December 1. The head of Jefferson was retained with a larger wreath of laurel and the name in larger type than on the G card, which it supplanted. The paper was the same as that of which the G card had been made, the weight being 6 pounds 3 ounces per thousand. The title, as in the G card, is at the left of the vignette, "Postal card—one cent," in plain gothic with large initial capitals. In a second line, on a black tablet inclosed by small lines and pointed ornaments at the ends, appear the words "United States of America" in heavy white capitals, slightly ornamented gothic. Beneath this a half circle design with lines extending right and left half an inch, and next in small gothic capital letters, "This side for the address only."

1898.—The K card was introduced March 31. It is 2 15-16 by 4 15-16 inches, only five-sixteenths of an inch larger one way than the A card of 1891, but the paper is that upon which the B, G, and H cards are made. Its weight is 5 pounds to the thousand, while the A card is of white and heavier paper—5 pound 12 ounces to the thousand.

The portrait in the stamp is that of John Adams, three quarters to the left, after an engraving by Longacre in the National Portrait Gallery, from a painting by B. Otis, after the portrait by G. Stuart. The name John Adams is given beneath and the vignette is surrounded by a wreath much like that on the H card stamp. The title "Postal card—one cent," is in black Roman capitals, the initials being large. The words "United States of America" in larger capitals are on the line below, then follows an ornamental dividing line, and in small black capitals the instruction "This side for the address only."

1898.—The D card was reduced to 3 1-4 by 5 1-2 inches and no other modifications made.

1898.—The E card was reduced to 3 1-4 by 5 1-2 inches, the border removed, and it was then first printed in black.

The Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.

We have already announced that this work, as originally planned by us, has been completed and distributed to our subscribers. Many of these have suggested that a supplement, bringing the Catalogue up to date, would be extremely desirable, and we ourselves have realized that the earlier portion of the work, which was begun in 1889, has now become obsolete and that the Catalogue, in order to accomplish its purpose as a complete reference book for collectors, should embrace, at least, all the issues of the nineteenth century.

We have not, up to the present, made any definite announcement of our intention in this respect, as we had not formulated the policy which we would pursue. Mr. Henry Collin, who performed the chief work in compiling the Catalogue proper, has, for our account, prepared the manuscript for all such portions as are not covered by the Catalogue, as now completed, and we are prepared to undertake the publication of a supplement which will complete the issues of the last century, if we can obtain sufficient support to warrant our undertaking the labor and incurring the expense. The supplement, if published, will consist of from four to six hundred pages, of the same size as the Catalogue proper, and it could be completed in about one year from the inception of the work. It would be illustrated in the same style as the Catalogue itself, except that we would not furnish any additional plates, such as have generously adorned the original.

We are prepared to undertake the publication at $10 per subscriber, payable in advance, if we receive five hundred subscriptions. A smaller number of subscriptions would not repay us the actual outlay for composition, printing and paper, to say nothing of the expense incurred in connection with the compiling of the manuscript, the proof reading and other incidentals.

Subscriptions will be received by the publishers but the money will not be asked for until publication has been definitely decided upon.

Honesty in Philatelic Journalism.

The February number of the *Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*, published in Birmingham, contains what we must admit to be a splendid list of tests for distinguishing counterfeit from genuine Hamburg stamps. We are modest enough to confess, that the descriptions are excellent, as the entire article, including the introduction, is taken verbatim from our Catalogue for Advanced Collectors, of which the portion relating to Hamburg was published in 1892. As the article is not signed by any contributor, we must assume that the editor of the journal furnished this valuable information as his own work, and we must express our surprise that such an impudent attempt should be made to foist upon his readers, as original information, the work of others.

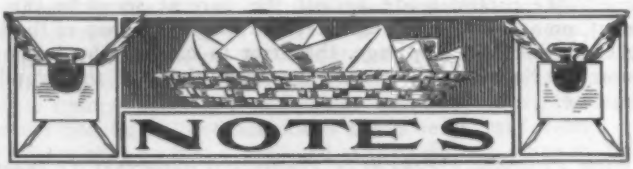
New Guatemala Counterfeits.

A correspondent in Guatemala has sent us samples of a lot of the stamps of that country which he offers for sale, and, as the samples are counterfeit, we presume that the entire lot is of the same ilk. In the first place, there are the ½, 2 and 4 reales of 1878, which appear to be photographic counterfeits, no difference in the type being apparent, the character of the stamps being revealed only by the roughness of the impression and the gauge of the perforation. The other counterfeits consist of the following surcharges:

1894, 1c on 2c brown
1898, 1c revenue, surcharged
2c on 1c revenue, both normal and inverted
6c on 5c violet
6c on 10c red

All of these are very excellent counterfeits of the original surcharges, the differences being apparent only upon close inspection.

We deem it unwise to give the exact differences between the genuine and the fraudulent, but would advise collectors to be careful in buying stamps of this class.



UNITED STATES.—Mr. H. G. Mandel has shown us the 90c carmine of the 1879 issue and the 5c indigo of the 1888 issue in imperforate pairs. These varieties will doubtless be of interest to collectors, particularly those who specialize in the stamps of this country.

Mr. J. M. Bartels has shown us five hitherto unchronicled envelopes of the United States, of the issue of 1894. The watermark, quality of paper, etc. are the same in all respects as the other envelopes of this series, the difference consisting in papers and sizes not known to collectors.

They are as follows:

1c on oriental buff,	knife	49,	size	3
1c on blue,	"	49,	"	3
2c on oriental buff,	"	59,	"	8
2c on blue,	"	59,	"	8
2c on blue,	"	61,	"	9

The knives are those given in the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.

BOLIVIA.—The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that the pretty issue of 1899, bearing the portrait of Major Sucre, has already fallen into disfavor and that new stamps are being prepared.

✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡

CUBA.—We have received a pair of Puerto Principe 5c on ½m green, our No. 190, in which the right-hand stamp is without surcharge.

✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We are informed by Mr. Alfredo F. Pellerano that the Executive Power of the Dominican Republic has issued a decree, authorizing the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs to issue a new set of stamps, consisting of three millions in all, divided as follows :

Postage stamps,	½c	150,000
	1c	460,000
	2c	900,000
	5c	600,000
	10c	280,000
	20c	50,000
	50c	35,000
	$1	25,000
Unpaid Letter stamps,	2c	175,000
	4c	175,000
	5c	90,000
	10c	60,000

It would appear that another new issue, after the recent appearance of new stamps, would have been unnecessary, although it may be that the present step is due to the protest made against the current series by the Haytian government, on account of the improper marking on the map of the boundary dividing Hayti and San Domingo, the error in cartography leading to the supposition that San Domingo owned a greater share of the island than is really the case.

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FRENCH CONGO.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that 44 sheets of the 2c value of the panther type were printed in red, the color of the 10c. The errors were at once sent to the Ministry to be burned, and, although they left the printing office, they never arrived at the office of the Minister. It is evident, however, that they have not disappeared entirely, as some specimens have already been offered to collectors.

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FRENCH CONGO.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that a new set of unpaid letter stamps is being prepared for this colony. The design is by Mr. P. Merwart and shows the numeral of value in the center, with elephants at the sides. The inscription "CONGO FRANCAIS" is placed at the bottom, in a rectangular label; at top, "POSTES," and, in the upper angles, the letters "R. F." The values and colors have not as yet been announced.

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HAWAII.—Mr. C. J. Phillips has seen a specimen of the 2c Inter Island stamp, in black on white wove, printed on both sides.

HAYTI.—The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* also announces a new set for this country, but is unable to give any idea of the type to be adopted.

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INDIA.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* states that the stamps of Bussahir are to be withdrawn from circulation on April 1st, 1901.

The same contemporary has also been informed that the Jhalawar post ceased to operate on October 31st, 1900.

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MONTENEGRO.—The *Timbrophile Belge* states that after the 1st of May the new Austrian currency is to be applied to all postage stamps, and that perhaps this may lead to some provisional surcharging.

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SALVADOR.—Mr. Albert Calman has shown us a pair of the 1 centavo of 1896, imperforate vertically between.

✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡

SIAM.—The American Stamp Co. has shown us a Siam 1 att on 12 atts, in a type entirely different from that catalogued, and with the figure "1" inverted. In our No. 39, the only stamp of this value which we catalogue, the letters of the word "ATT" are close together, whereas in the stamp submitted they are considerably spaced.

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SOMALI COAST.—The artist, P. Merwart, has designed three new types for this colony. The first, intended for postage stamps of low values, represents a camel in the desert with two black warriors on his back. The second type, somewhat larger, is reserved for the higher values. Its subject is three black warriors, one of whom is standing and the other two kneeling. They are armed with spears and bucklers. The third type, intended for unpaid letter stamps, consists of a buckler and two spears, the value to be placed on the buckler. The inscriptions are to be on banderoles.

The stamps are now being prepared at the printing office in the Boulevard Brune.

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VAAL RIVER COLONY.—Mr. William Thorne has shown us the ½, 1 and 2p, surcharged "V. R. I." inverted.



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. — According to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, the statement made in our last number, that the 12c stamp had been suppressed, is evidently an error, as it is to be re-issued in olive green. Besides that, the 30c stamp, which originally appeared in carmine, is now said to be in vermilion.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked large sun with rays.
12c olive green
30c vermilion

BELGIUM.—*Alfred Smith and Son's Monthly Circular* states that the stamp and inscriptions on the envelope have been changed from red brown to carmine.

Envelope.

Size (?)
10c carmine

BERMUDA.– In our February number we chronicled a provisional ¼p stamp, made by surcharging the current ½p. We cannot now recall the source of our information, but we feel certain that we must have chronicled correctly what we were told. We now find, from various stamp journals, that the 1sh stamp was printed in gray and surcharged "ONE FARTHING." We have not, up to the present, been able to determine whether one or two provisionals have been issued. We add the second variety not previously chronicled by us.

Adhesive stamp.

Provisional issue.
Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perforated 14.
1f on 1sh gray

CHILE.—In our January number we chronicled a new type of the 5c revenue stamp used for postage, and now Mr. Witt has shown us a 1c of the same type similarly used.

Revenue stamp used for postage.

Perforated.
1c vermilion

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC. — Mr. W. F. Gregory has shown us some interesting covers, emanating from Buenaventura and Tumaco in the province of Cauca and addressed to firms in this city. Owing to the revolution, this province has been cut off from the rest of the country and the supplies of stamps in the post offices have become exhausted. In Buenaventura the letters were marked, with pen and ink, "Paid" and the amount of the postage. They are mentioned merely to show the lack of stamps and do not call for further comment. At Tumaco an effort has been made to meet the needs of the post office by means of provisional stamps. These are simple, type-set affairs, apparently made in a local printing office. They are inscribed in three lines:

Pagó $0.01
El Agente Postal
Manuel E. Jiménez.

So far as now known, there are five values. We have seen four varieties of the two centavos and anticipate there are minor varieties of each value. The stamps are printed in black on white wove paper.

For a time letters bearing these stamps were accepted by the post office but, since about March 1st, they have been marked as unpaid and postage collected on delivery here. There does not appear to be any doubt that these stamps were made and used in good faith and to meet legitimate postal needs, but there remains a question as to the authority under which they were issued and it may be difficult to ascertain this. We shall illustrate the stamps in our next number.

We find that our list of the Cucuta provisionals, which appear in our catalogue as Colombian Republic Nos 175-179, is not exactly accurate and that, when compiling that list, we had not observed the existence of two types, the second one of which is described in our March number. It would appear that the 1c green, 5c black and 20c yellow were never issued in the first type, with the heading "Gobierno Provisorio," and that the 10c in pink exists in both types. The correct list should therefore read as follows:

Adhesive stamps.

Cucuta issue.
Perforated.
Type A63.
5 cvos black on pink
10 " " "

Second type.



Surcharged at the side "Andres B. Fernandez."

1 *ctvo.* black on green, green surchg.
2 *ctvos.* black on green " "
5 " black on white " "
10 " black on pink, black "
20 " black on yellow, green "

Tumaco issue.
Provisional issue.
Imperforate.
1c black
2c "
5c "
10c "
20c "

CRETE.—It appears that the set of unpaid letter stamps printed from the plates of the postage stamps constituted a provisional issue, as we have just received specimens of another set in an entirely new design, of which we illustrate the 1 lepton.

Unpaid letter stamp.



Perforated.
1 l red
5 l "
10 l "
20 l "
40 l "
50 l "
1dr "
2dr "

FRANCE.—On the authority of *Die Post* we chronicle the first provisional stamp that ever entered into general use in France.

According to the provisions of a recently enacted law, each French soldier is permitted to send two letters each month free of charge, and,

in order to carry out the law, a blue, white and red stamp with inscription "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE MILITAIRE 15C" is being prepared. However, as the law went into effect at once, it was necessary to provide a provisional stamp until the appearance of the new stamp, and, at the beginning of January, each army corps received a parcel of the new 15c stamp with black surcharge "F. M." (Franchise Militaire). These stamps were not sold to the public.

Military frank stamp.

Perforated.
15c orange, black surcharge

German Offices in the Levant.—Mr. C. Witt has shown us the 5 pfennig wrapper of the old type, surcharged for use in the Levant. It appears that this wrapper was issued sometime during the early portion of 1900, and some authorities claim that the issue was entirely a private one, only one lot having been printed and that at the request of one firm. The remainders were bought up by a speculator in Jerusalem.

Wrapper.

10pa on 5pf green, black surcharge

GREECE.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a number of the Olympian Games stamps, surcharged "A. M." and new value.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Perforated.
5o1 on 2d bistre, red surcharge
1d on 5d blue green, red surcharge
2d on 10d brown, red surcharge

MONACO.—The 5 and 10c stamps have appeared in the new Postal Union colors.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14x13½.
5c yellow green
10c carmine

PERU.—In our last number we chronicled a 1c stamp, issued to commemorate the beginning of the 20th century, but it appears that one stamp would not sufficiently express the enthusiasm of the Peruvians over the auspicious event, as we have now been shown by Mr. C. Witt two other values issued at the same time. The designs are the same as the 1c, the only change being in the portrait shown.

Adhesive stamps.



Perforated.
2c red and black
5c violet and black

ROUMANIA.—Some time ago we chronicled the entire set of current stamps on unwatermarked rose paper, and we have now received the 1, 3 and 5 bani values on rose paper, bearing the watermark described in our February Notes.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.
Watermarked.
1b pale brown
3b brown
5b emerald green

SALVADOR.—In assorting a lot of used stamps, received direct from this country, we find the 15c black of 1897 surcharged for official use, in the type used on our Nos. 525-549

and 552-553b Our catalogue chronicles the 1897 set only with FRANQUEO OFFICIAL surcharge in oval. We presume that the entire set of 1897 exists with the surcharge referred to, but for the present we shall chronicle only the value which we have received.

Official stamp.

Perforated.
15c black, black surcharge

SERVIA.—Mr. W. T. Wilson has shown the *Monthly Journal* two new values in a larger size than the current issue, with the name in a straight line at the top, a crown and mantle over the oval containing the head, and numerals in the shield below.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 11½.
3d bright pink
5d violet

Federated Malay States.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has received specimens, presumably some of those distributed to the Postal Union, of a set, from 1c to 50c, in an entirely new design. The stamp is an oblong rectangle and shows a tiger in the jungle as the central design.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perf. 14.
1c dull green and black
3c terra cotta and black
4c carmine and black
5c carmine and gray green on yellow
8c ultramarine and gray black
10c violet and gray black
20c gray black and dull violet
50c yellow brown and gray black

TUNIS.—The 10, 15 and 25 centimes stamps have appeared in the new colors of the French Colonies.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14x13½.
10c red
15c gray on light gray
25c blue

TURKEY.—We have received new sets of stamps for foreign and internal postage and we learn that four unpaid letter stamps have also been issued. We enumerate the stamps below :

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.
For foreign postage.
5pa bistre
10pa yellow green
20pa magenta
1pia violet blue
2pia gray blue
5pia ochre
25pia dark green
50pia yellow
For interior postage.
5pa purple
10pa green
20pa carmine
1pia deep blue
2pia orange
5pia lilac rose
25pia brown
50pia yellow brown

Unpaid letter stamps.

10pa
20pa
1pia
2pia

URUGUAY.—New issues continue to pour in from this country. Under a decree, issued on February 7th of this year, several new stamps have appeared.

The 2 and 7c are in new types, the other values which we list below are in the types of the 1890 issue.

Under a decree issued on January 28th, new envelopes of 5c, letter cards of 3c and wrappers of 5 milesimas were also placed in issue.

Adhesive stamps.





Perforated.
2c vermilion
7c bistre
25c brown
50c carmine
$1 dark green
Envelope.
5c blue
Letter card.
3c blue
Wrapper.
5m brown

VICTORIA.—In our March number we chronicled the appearance of a new ½ penny stamp in the old type, and we now receive information from Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle that all the values from ½d to 5sh have been issued in new colors, the designs in some cases being modified. The full list is as follows :

Adhesive stamps.
Watermarked V and Crown.
Perforated.
½p blue green, type A21
1p " type A26, inscribed "POSTAGE" under the bust
2p purple, type A27
2½p " type A43, inscribed "POSTAGE," instead of "STAMP DUTY"
3p brown orange, type A14
4p bistre, type A28
5p chocolate, type A44, inscribed "POSTAGE," instead of "STAMP DUTY"
6p emerald green, type A12
1sh dull orange, type A24
2sh blue on pink, type A25
5sh blue and vermilion, type A17

